The Brunswik Society

32nd International (Virtual) Meeting of the Brunswik Society

– Free Event –
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Agenda

Friday 4th December 2026, 12.00-14.30 EST (17.00-19.30 GMT) via Zoom

Opening Remarks – Thomas R. Stewart (University at Albany, USA)

Title: Formal Modeling as Theoretical Glue Between Laboratory and Naturalistic Studies of Memory
Presenters/Authors: Qiong Zhang (Rutgers University-New Brunswick, USA)

Title: Keeping an Eye on the Ball: A Naturalistic Experiment Evaluating the Gaze Heuristic
Presenters/Authors: Maxence Chevallet, Alex Odlum, and Julian Marewski (University of Lausanne, CHE)

Title: An Expanded Lens Model Approach to Avalanche Forecasting and Verification
Presenters/Authors: Philip Ebert (University of Salzburg, AUT) and Frank Techel (WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF, CHE)

Title: Does Economics Education Improve Inflation Forecasting? A Lens Model Analysis
Presenters/Authors: Hampus Axelsson, Lars Frimanson, Mattias Forsgren, and Peter Juslin (Uppsala University, SWE)

In memoriam: Klaus Fiedler (1951-2026)
Presenters: Florian Scholten and Mandy Hütter (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, GER)

Closing Remarks – Jim Holzworth (University of Connecticut, USA)

Virtual Social/Networking Hour!!!

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The Organization Team Looks Forward to Seeing You:
Mandeep Dhami, Gijs Holleman & Esther Kaufmann

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Opening Remarks – Thomas R. Stewart (University at Albany, USA)

Title: Formal Modeling as Theoretical Glue Between Laboratory and Naturalistic Studies of Memory
Presenters/Authors: Qiong Zhang (Rutgers University-New Brunswick, USA)
Abstract: Memory research has evolved along two traditions: well-controlled laboratory experiments emphasizing precision and tractability, and naturalistic experiments emphasizing generalization to real-world contexts. Yet we lack a theory of memory consistently interpreted across them. Formal modeling is the key to this theoretical link. Computational models developed over decades of laboratory experiments need naturalistic experiments to test their generalizability and reveal their limitations; naturalistic experiments, in turn, connect better with existing paradigms when explained by the same model. I propose a step-by-step procedure treating naturalistic settings as all possible scenarios, with laboratory settings forming a well-understood subset. Our goal is to incrementally expand studies and models in this subset to generalize to increasingly naturalistic scenarios. The two approaches are thus not a trade-off but essential to the same goal.

Title: Keeping an Eye on the Ball: A Naturalistic Experiment Evaluating the Gaze Heuristic
Presenters/Authors: Maxence Chevallet, Alex Odlum, and Julian Marewski (University of Lausanne, CHE)
Abstract: We assess whether the gaze heuristic, an interception strategy that can be connected to the lens model, can increase performance when catching high balls. One hundred students were randomly allocated to one of two conditions: half were instructed to use the heuristic, the others to use any strategy of their choosing. Across 45 trials, the experimenter would send a ball flying high in the air using a tennis racket, sampling a wide array of landing positions. Participants then attempted to catch it. The experiment was conducted outside, under naturally varying (e.g., wind) conditions, as they occur in multiple

ball sports. We discuss our findings, focusing on questions such as how performance may be shaped by environmental and participant characteristics.

Title: An Expanded Lens Model Approach to Avalanche Forecasting and Verification
Presenters/Authors: Philip Ebert (University of Salzburg, AUT) and Frank Techel (WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF, CHE)
Abstract: Ordinal danger levels are used to forecast and communicate the danger posed by natural hazards, such as avalanches and wildfires, as well as other societal risks. For many of these scales, the danger cannot be measured directly, so verification scores have to use a later expert judgement as their reference. Building on the Expanded Lens Model, we propose a new and more comprehensive conceptual model of ordinal danger level forecasting and verification that treats the verifier as fallible. It distinguishes conceptual, ontic, predictive, coverage, acquisition, interpretive and ordinalisation uncertainty, and shows which of them change between forecast and verifying judgement, which draws on different evidence, faces different stakes, and may be anchored on the forecast. Using regional avalanche forecasting as our example, we identify what can and cannot be measured and locate bias and noise in forecaster and verifier. Finally, we derive practical recommendations to improve forecasting and verification practice beyond the avalanche forecasting context.

Title: Does Economics Education Improve Inflation Forecasting? A Lens Model Analysis
Presenters/Authors: Hampus Axelsson, Lars Frimanson, Mattias Forsgren, and Peter Juslin (Uppsala University, SWE)
Abstract: We examine whether economics education is associated with differences in how people use information when forecasting inflation. Using Brunswik's lens model and representative design, we compare participants with a bachelor's degree in economics with those without formal economics training. Participants forecast U.S. inflation for sampled historical years using macroeconomic information from actual historical conditions. Lens model analyses examine cue utilization, ecological validity, and how closely participants' judgments reflect relationships in the environment. We also compare forecasting accuracy and judgment consistency between the groups. We propose that this approach, which uses real historical data from a natural ecology without revealing the historical years to participants at the time of judgment, offers an underused way to implement representative design.

In memoriam: Klaus Fiedler (1951-2026)
Presenters: Florian Scholten and Mandy Hütter (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, GER)
Abstract: Klaus Fiedler was one of the most distinguished European social psychologists of his generation, whose work spanned social cognition, judgment and decision-making, memory, communication, affect, and methodology. This presentation revisits selected contributions from Fiedler's comprehensive work that advanced Brunswikian psychology, including the BIAS model, the Ultimate Sampling Dilemma, and his social and metacognitive view on the lens model. Resonating with probabilistic functionalism, one of Fiedler's central contributions was the cognitive-ecological sampling approach. Fiedler's sampling provides an elegant theoretical account of cognitive biases by highlighting how selective samples—reflecting the

interface between cognition and environment—shape the inference of latent environmental properties. At once cognitive, statistical, functional, and ecological, and with a strong connection to Brunswik's ecological perspective, Klaus Fiedler's legacy lies in advancing a unique framework for psychological science.

Closing Remarks – Jim Holzworth (University of Connecticut, USA)

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